

# MONTEREY NEWS

NOVEMBER 1992

## TOWN NEWS

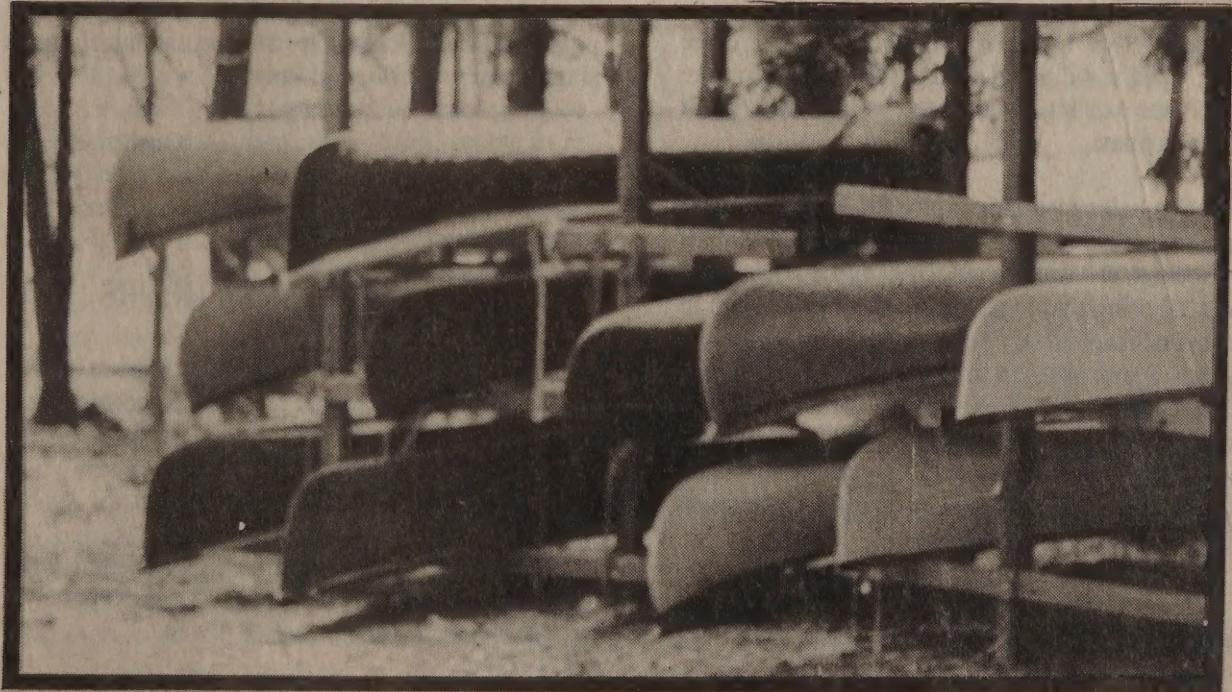
Hugh Cowhig, Monterey's Town Counsel, has advised the Selectmen that Section IV-E of the Monterey zoning bylaws, dealing with non-conforming uses, needs to be revised. The provisions of this section have been the subject of debates, confusion and concern for the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Appeals and the Planning Board, as well as landowners.

Specifically, Part 2 of Section IV-E states that a non-conforming use may be enlarged or expanded only in accordance with the following requirement: *Such change shall result in a structure no more than 25% greater in overall height, total area and total interior volume than the original.* This section is in apparent conflict with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40A, Section 6, which states that a single- or two-family residential structure may be altered or changed as long as the changes do not increase the non-

conforming nature of the structure, i.e., encroach into the setback area, exceed height specifications, etc. This means that the provision in our bylaw that specifies no more than an overall 25% increase in a given structure is unenforceable. Accordingly, if the changes do not increase the non-conforming nature of the structure, only a building permit is needed. If the changes *do* increase the non-conformity, a special permit must be obtained.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Bill Bohn, stated that recent court cases have been "making mincemeat" out of this kind of bylaw restriction (that is, one with an arbitrary allowable increase in size). Another problem with our bylaw is the fact that it penalizes a landowner for building a small house, since future alterations or expansions are calculated from the size of the initial structure.

The Planning Board will review Section IV-E of the bylaw and propose appropriate changes.



The zoning bylaw problems discussed above will have ramifications for the rulings on the current zoning violations at the Simon property on Sylvan Road, Lake Garfield. A public hearing on the matter was held on October 3. During the hearing, the Simons' attorney suggested that the owners move the new structure out of the setback area. Abutters and neighbors expressed dismay over this idea.

At one point, it was thought that the height of the house violated a deed restriction for the area. It has since been discovered that the deed restriction, which was added around 1954, is void after thirty years. The Board of Selectmen and Town Counsel continue to investigate to see what, if anything, can be done in this case.

The new computer system has been installed in the town hall, the library and the firehouse. It will be about six months before the entire system is fully functional (i.e., interconnected and accessible). The Selectmen have appointed Steve Bohn as data processing coordinator. He will set policies and procedures for the implementation and management of the computer.

The town will place *No Hunting* signs, as per the bylaw (Article 19) passed at the town meeting last May. The signs will read *No hunting in Monterey without written permission from the landowner*. The signs will be placed at the Monterey town line on the following roads: Tyringham Road; Route 23 East/Otis; Route 23 West/Great Barrington; Route 57/New Marlboro; Blue Hill Road; River Road; Corashire Road; Sandisfield Road. Until the new signs are erected, the existing signs posted by landowners will remain in place.

The Selectmen have contacted Conrad Ohman about a notice received from the Department of Environmental Management, Division of Forests and Parks, advising that logging operations will begin in Beartown State Forest. The Board reaffirmed that any road damage resulting from logging should be reported to Mr. Ohman as soon as possible after the logging takes place. Complaints should be made in writing to Mr. Ohman, with a copy sent to Douglas G. Poland, Regional Forest and Park Supervisor of the Department of Environmental Management.

John Owen is responsible for bringing the American elm back to Monterey. Elm trees once

flourished around town until elm disease killed most of the trees, leaving only a few spindly survivors. John Owen heard about the Liberty Elm Project from the Elm Research Institute in Harrisville, New Hampshire. The scientists there developed a new American elm species using selected strains of the tree that were resistant to the disease. Mr. Owen approached the Selectmen about the project, and they agreed that the town would contribute \$200 towards the purchase of 100 seedlings. From then on, it was a community effort: Gould Farm donated a plot of ground on which to plant the seedlings; Wayne Burkhart donated three tons of soil; Del Janssen and Ann Lyons donated hardwood fence posts; and Robert LePrevost donated snow fencing (to keep out the critters). John Owen provided the labor and the TLC needed to give the seedlings a good start. To date, trees have been planted at the Monterey kindergarten, the town garage, the library and the town hall.

The Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Karen Sawers and Carol Lewis Edelman to the Substance Abuse Task Force of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

The following building permit applications were approved: Sheila Marton of Tenafly, New Jersey, for a new single-family dwelling on Laurel Hill, submitted by Don McCarthy and Mickey Jervas, the builders; Raymond and Mary Ward, for the construction of a precast concrete hut by New England Telephone Company on a 20' x 20' easement on their Route 23 property; Daniel Andrus, for the construction of a new single-family dwelling on Route 57.

— Maggie Leonard

## WINTER DISPOSAL AREA HOURS

Winter hours for the Monterey Disposal Area began on Sunday, October 25. The schedule is as follows:

SUNDAY: 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Stickers for authorized users' vehicles may be obtained at the town hall on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-noon.



## CHURCH NEWS

It's November! Where has the year gone? And with the approach of Thanksgiving, can Christmas be far behind? Of course, that means preparation for all the holiday festivities and shopping for those special gifts for family and friends. We at the church have a splendid idea to make your holiday gift giving easier and more meaningful. Come to our second annual SELFHELP INTERNATIONAL CRAFT SALE on Thanksgiving weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 27-29, in the church social room.

The response last year was overwhelming, and we almost sold out of \$4,000 worth of unique, handcrafted products. This year, we're doubling our inventory, and that means even more one-of-a-kind items: baskets, ornaments, toys, rugs, brassware, jewelry, and much, much more.

For those of you who were unable to attend last year, let me explain what this is all about. SELFHELP Crafts of the World is a non-profit organization of the Mennonite and Brethren churches that markets handcrafted items created by third-world craftspeople. SELFHELP gets its name from its primary goal to create economic opportunities for indigenous peoples to help themselves. More than 30,000 people in 35 developing countries benefit.

Last year, our family did almost all our Christmas shopping at the sale. The prices were reasonable, the quality excellent, and we all felt good about helping to support people in need around the world. For example, this past year, two deadly cyclones struck the country of Bangladesh. At least 140,000 people died, and 100,000 more are missing and presumed dead. While the international community has come to their aid, "survivors in the affected areas are in a state of shock, having lost dear ones and all earthly possessions." These are the words of Rollin Rheinheimer, a Mennonite worker who serves in that area. The SELFHELP program is also assisting. Rheinheimer continues, "We work with job creation, helping Bangladeshis

make handicrafts and other items to earn enough money to feed their families. They are going to be even more desperate now. Purchases of handicrafts from Bangladesh will help them rebuild, help give work to people who desperately need income."

We will have crafts from Bangladesh, as well as Sri Lanka, Botswana, El Salvador, India, the Philippines and other countries. This is a great opportunity to make some wonderful gift selections while helping to provide economic opportunities for others. It is also a great way to support our church. Ten per cent of the income will help the church's operating budget.

We believe that this work is really an outreach and a mission which provides a service to our community and makes a tremendous statement about our values for giving during this holiday season. We hope you will visit the SELFHELP craft sale and learn more about our links with talented world neighbors in developing countries.

— Cliff Aerie

### MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Bless the Lord, O my soul  
Lord my God you are great  
You are clothed with the energy of atoms...  
From a cloud of whirling cosmic dust  
as on the potter's wheel  
you began to tease out the whorls of the galaxies  
and the gas escapes from your fingers  
condensing and burning  
and you were fashioning the stars  
You made a splatterdash of planets  
like spores or seeds  
and scattered comets like flowers...  
— Ernesto Cardenal*

Come join your friends and neighbors  
To worship the God of all creation  
Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

528-5850

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Fifth and sixth graders from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District moved into their newly renovated wing at the Sheffield campus on October 13. Pre-K through fourth grade classrooms will be completed in early February.

Four separate play areas behind the building are completed, along with new softball fields and a paved area for basketball and winter ice skating.

On September 17, the School Committee voted to accept the name Undermountain Elementary School for the facility.

The School Committee encourages the community to visit the new high school and the elementary school, to use the facilities and to participate in the variety of events that are planned. One event is a concert performed by the Berkshire Chamber Music Society each month through May. A calendar of scheduled activities is available from Robert Law, Events/Public Information Co-ordinator, P.O. Box 339, Sheffield, MA 01257, or telephone, 229-8734.

— Evelyn Vallianos

## A NOTE ON SCHOOLS

A recent article in the *Berkshire Eagle* indicated that the Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee may prepare a warrant item to be brought before the towns of Monterey and Alford concerning the possible closing of the small schools in these two towns. This news came as a surprise to the Selectmen.

Recently, when the request for reconsideration of the name change for the new SBRSD elementary school was discussed by the Selectmen with Thomas Consolati, Superintendent of Schools, we received his unequivocal assurance that the Monterey School would remain open, albeit with the possibility that the grade level might change. Mr. Consolati's exact words were, "I am committed to keeping the Monterey School open."

We will carefully monitor the situation. The SBRSD's original agreement cannot be altered without the agreement of all the towns involved. If any alteration of the agreement is proposed, Monterey's financial obligation to the District would have to undergo serious reconsideration.

If the subject of closing the school comes up again, public hearings will be held in Monterey. And sufficient public notice will be given so that all concerned citizens can make plans to attend.

— William Bohn, Georgiana O'Connell, Peter Brown

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## Dr. Jerrold Raab DENTIST

*Dr. Raab has practiced for 18 years in Great Neck, LI, Brooklyn and Manhattan, and is experienced in all phases of dentistry, including periodontal treatment, root canal therapy and oral surgery.*

CONVENIENT WEEKEND HOURS

528-6520

Route 23

Monterey

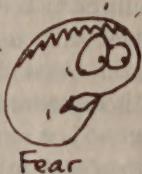
## PARK COMMISSION NEWS

One good frost and a harvest moon, and the Park Commission is again thinking about the skating season! In fact, we are calling on all hands to join us on Sunday, November 8 at 9:00 a.m., to help us install the boards for the rink.

That will also be a fine time to sign everyone up for Monterey hockey. We remind everyone that beginners and novices are welcome to come out and give hockey a try! Maybe someone would like to teach a figure skating class. Ice dancing?

Also, we are brainstorming for a better way to keep the water in the rink during thaws and cut down on ice-making time. We are again contemplating a liner of some sort. Any ideas?

— Tom Rosenthal, Mick Burns, Jim Thomas



## MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met October 7 for a Pumpkin Program, which included pumpkin refreshments, pumpkin costumes, pumpkin recipes and a pumpkin pie contest.

The winners of the pumpkin pie contest were:

1st: Catherine Oggian

2nd: Florence Janes

3rd: Margaret Holahan

The winners of the pumpkin costume contest were:

Most original: Tillie Butler

Prettiest: Alice Shaffer

Funniest: Anne Vickerman

The judges were Myrtle Mercier and Jack and Helen McDermott.

Worthy Lecturer Mary Wallace is the delegate to the State Grange session at Sturbridge, October 21-24.

The Grange has been invited to installation at Stockbridge Grange #295.

The Grange met again October 21. A report on that meeting will appear in the December issue of the *Monterey News*.

— Mary Wallace

## COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

Dan Tawczynski of Taft Farm spoke and showed his slides to about fifty people at the Community Dinner on October 14. Dan was in Siberia on the shores of Lake Baikal for two weeks. He shared with us his experiences and observations about Siberian farm life and the contrasts between rural and urban life in the former Soviet cities he visited. It was a rewarding evening.

Before the dinner started, a request was made for volunteers to take charge of future dinners. Happily, several volunteers came forward to host dinners in November, March, April and May. (We will skip the months of December, January and February.) November's Community Dinner will be hosted by Cliff Aerie, with assistance from Steve Schneider and Nancy Rowley.

The next Community Dinner will be held on November 11. The speaker will be William Wildey, the Northern New England Regional Director of Church World Service. Bill has worked for many years developing the CROP program to raise money and resources to combat world hunger. His talk will focus on conditions in Africa.

Here are some notes from Church World Service:

*A two-year drought from the Horn of Africa to the Cape has wreaked havoc in twelve countries of eastern and southern Africa. . . . Some 40 million people are at risk of starvation. . . . The African Council of Churches has asked for \$21 million to provide short and long term aid to their countries. Immediate needs are emergency food, water and transportation for relief supplies. Long term development needs include seeds, tools, rehabilitation of wells and well-drilling equipment. Church World Service, the relief, development and refugee assistance arm of the National Council of Churches USA has announced that it is undertaking to raise \$6 million.*

Please come to hear about the conditions in Africa and what we can do to be of assistance. At the end of the program, there will be a free-will offering for the \$6 million fund-raising effort.

### LEAVES ACCEPTED

Lowland Farm, New Marlborough Road

Roger Tryon — 528-4091

No need to call ahead — follow signs

PLEASE — NO BRUSH

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

We have gathered pumpkins and apples and are somewhat prepared for the wintry weather ahead. Many thanks to Bob Thieriot of Tall Pine Farm in Monterey and the owners of the Windy Hill Orchards for helping to make our visits special.

We are extremely grateful to the Women's Race of Pittsfield for the donation of \$500 towards our drivers' education fund, and to the Thursday Morning Club of Great Barrington for the \$500 donation towards the Parent-to-Parent program.

With winter come heating problems and holidays, and there are area programs to help families in need. Community Services (528-1947) will help with fuel assistance programs and holiday food baskets. The Berkshire Eagle Santa Fund forms will be available at CHP the week of December 1. Families in Lee must apply for the Santa Fund at the Lee Town Hall.

We encourage new families to visit the area playgroups. We have begun a new playgroup at the Youth Building in Stockbridge on Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30. Bonnie Campbell and Maria Whaley-Wool are sharing the leadership responsibilities. Sandisfield playgroup has begun on Friday mornings, 10:00-noon, at the Community Center. Melissa Baker is the leader. All playgroups are free of charge and sponsored by Berkshire County United Way.

We plan a holiday raffle to help support our playgroup program. Anyone wishing to donate a prize or help sell tickets can call Claudette or Wendy (528-9311). Tickets will be available through playgroups.

With the advent of colder weather, we will find that we are indoors more and more. Here are some ideas for simple things to do with children indoors: Play follow-the-leader with a long piece of string or yarn. Let an adult pull the string for safety's sake. . . . What happens if you cut up an apple and leave it on the counter? . . . Wiggle your fingers and pretend you are a spider. . . . Look out the window. What is going on outside? . . . What color is a banana? How many yellow things can you find? . . . Pack a picnic lunch and eat in the living room. . . . Make a tent with a bridge table and a blanket. . . . Visit the town library and read a book with your child. . . . Sing and dance to the Hokey Pokey song. It is OK for adults to be silly once in a while. It

reduces tension and stress, too. For more ideas, purchase the *Kid's Cure for Cabin Fever* book, published by CHP, for a donation of \$5. Our store also has both long- and short-sleeved t-shirts available, if you wish to purchase a gift and help a child. Contact Claudette or Wendy for specific orders.

— Claudette Callahan

## MONTEREY WILDLIFE SURVEY

*An inventory from The Bidwell House:* A flock of turkeys, occasional deer, a porcupine gnawing on the front door, a barred owl and a screech owl.

*Mammals:* Two sightings reported of moose! The North Woods seem to be coming this way. Possums, porcupines, lots of raccoons.

*Birds:* Two gulls on Lake Garfield, a partridge drumming on Chestnut Hill, many flights of geese, mostly heading south, wood ducks, black ducks, mallards, herons still here, catbirds, chipping sparrow, juncos (predicting snow?), ravens (does anyone else have the impression they've been here only the last few years?).

*Amphibians:* On October 10, an unusual number of newts, some of them tiny. What's more, they were found in clusters, as many as six or eight together, all sizes.

*Plants:* Fall blooming of ladies' tresses and witch hazel; the latter will be in full bloom when the leaves have dropped. Others that are hanging on after our several frosts: pearly everlasting, meadow pink, asters, goldenrod, red clover, a few stray brown-eyed Susans, bluets.

— David P. McAllester

## ELECTION DAY

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. The polls, at the firehouse, will be open from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

If you need help to get to the polls, call one of the following volunteers, who will drive you, babysit or whatever you need.

Bill Bohn — 528-4528

Muriel Lazzarini — 528-5796

Gige O'Connell — 528-1564

Matt Williams — 528-2902

## LAKE GARFIELD ASSOCIATION Boating and Safety Committee Report

Following our report in the September issue of the *Monterey News*, our committee submitted three proposed articles for a town vote to the state Director of the Marine Division of Law Enforcement, which he agreed to review. They dealt with: (1) the regulation of speed to 6 mph (headway speed) in the channel; (2) the restriction of water skiing in the small portion of the lake; (3) the appointment of a Harbor Master for the town of Monterey. Additional information required by the state was submitted at the Director's request and with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, with whom we have been coordinating this effort.

You may recall from our October report that the legality of placing buoy markers in the channel, limiting motorboat speed to 6 mph (headway speed), was challenged by several families. And, prior to a complete review of the channel and lake dimensions, shorelines, swimming areas, boating and resident population, which the state requested, our committee was advised that we should prepare these articles for vote by town residents at the next town meeting.

As promised, the state reviewed the information we submitted, and discussed the determinations and decisions with Paul Carnese, Chairman of the Boating and Safety Committee, via telephone. (The decisions were reiterated in a letter to the Board of Selectmen.) Here is a summary:

1. According to the topographic map of Lake Garfield, the actual width of the channel at its narrowest point is only 300 feet (not 380 feet, as suggested by Cindy Deloy in her letter to the editor in October's *Monterey News*). (An actual measurement by the committee confirmed the 300-foot width shown on the topographic map.)

Massachusetts Motorboat and Boating Regulation 323 CMR 2.07 (3) (c) and (d) state: "a motorboat shall not be operated at more than headway speed (6 mph) when the motorboat is operated within three hundred (300) feet of shoreline which is used as a swimming area, whether public or private;" and (d) "when the motorboat is in a channel."

2. The state agreed that the 300-foot wide area separating the large from the small portion of Lake Garfield is indeed a channel. Therefore, state regulations 323 CMR 2.07 (3) (c) and (d) apply. Further, since the homeowners on the channel use it for swimming and boat docks (with only 250 feet between docks), the

existing state regulations mandate that motorboat speed in the channel cannot exceed headway speed.

3. Given these facts, and in accordance with existing state boating regulations, no town regulation or bylaw on a town warrant is necessary to regulate speed in the channel. Further, because existing state regulations apply to the channel, the state has indicated that the Selectmen do have the authority to place buoy markers in the channel indicating a 6 mph speed limit for motorboats, and to enforce this regulation under existing state regulations.

4. According to the state, the Selectmen do have the authority to appoint a Harbor Master to enforce all state boating and safety regulations. No warrant article or town vote is necessary for this action.

5. The prohibition of water skiing in the small portion of the lake will require an article on the warrant for vote by town residents at the next town meeting. (The Marine Division of Law Enforcement agrees that, given the size of the small portion of the lake, the existence of public and private swimming areas on its perimeter and current state regulations restricting motorboats within 300 feet of a swimming area, water skiing in the small portion of the lake constitutes a serious danger and potential violation of existing boating regulations.)

An article concerning water skiing in the small lake has been submitted to the Board of Selectmen for inclusion on the warrant for a vote at the annual town meeting in May, 1993.

Contrary to the concerns anyone may have about additional regulations on Lake Garfield, what has been proposed by the Lake Garfield Association is merely the enforcement of existing state boating regulations. And the state has indicated its complete support of the objectives of the Lake Garfield Association and the Selectmen.

The Boating and Safety Committee of the Lake Garfield Association sincerely hopes that the information presented here answers the questions that have been raised. We also hope that it sets the record straight for all summer and full-time residents of Monterey. We have been, and will continue to be, on the side of the law and its enforcement as it pertains to safe boating, swimming and other recreational use of Lake Garfield.

— Paul J. Carnese

## THE BIDWELL HOUSE

As I write this, the fall leaves are at their peak, and we have one more week open to the public. It has been a busy and exciting season, with attendance up, increased publicity and more educational events offered for the public to enjoy. Our latest event, the hike along the Royal Hemlock Road on October 3, was a big success, with fourteen people taking part. Our thanks to Bob Rausch for leading the hike.

I am pleased to announce that The Bidwell House has received a grant from the Bay State Historical League and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. This grant enables us to hire Dr. George Harper, a Boston-area scholar in mid-eighteenth century religion. Dr. Harper will come several weekends a month until January to conduct research using Reverend Bidwell's sermons and other original archival material in our collection and in nearby libraries and historical societies.

The end result will be a public lecture in the early summer on Reverend Bidwell and his place in the Great Awakening of 1740, his interaction with the Reverends Jonathan Edwards and Samuel Hopkins, and information on how ministers lived and worked in the eighteenth century. In addition, we hope that Dr. Harper can break Reverend Bidwell's personal shorthand, in which he wrote all his sermons, thereby

solving a mystery that has puzzled many for generations! We believe that Dr. Harper's findings will be of great benefit to the whole town.

This grant would not have been possible without John and Maureen Congdon of Mountain Trails Bed and Breakfast. They have agreed to let Dr. Harper stay with them during his visits as an in-kind donation to the museum. Their generosity is much appreciated.

As you can see, The Bidwell House is in a period of growth and development as we further expand our educational outreach into the community. Soon, you will receive in the mail information about an exciting new program at the museum. We are instituting a membership program, The Friends of The Bidwell House. Friends can join at various levels of giving. In return for their tax-deductible contributions, members will receive the museum newsletter, advance notice and discounts on programs, an invitation to the members only Holiday Open House and free admission to the museum throughout the season.

We hope you will consider joining. Besides the benefits mentioned above, you will know that your contribution will enable us to continue our work and expand our efforts in preservation, research and education. We are looking forward to the creation of a strong membership program and to welcoming you into it!

— Lisa Simpson

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## HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has scheduled a free Home Composting Made Easy workshop at Gould Farm on Saturday, November 7, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The workshop will cover the following topics:

1. Why compost?
2. The composting process
3. What to compost
4. How to compost: rules of thumb
5. What to do with finished compost
6. Fine-tuning and troubleshooting

Samples of compostable material, backyard composters and finished compost will be displayed.

To pre-register for the workshop, or for more information about the program and future workshop sites, call CET's Home Composting Hotline at 1-800-238-1221.

## OUR TOWN

### Friends and Ecology, Markets and Politics

There are some nice things about getting older. You get more sure of some ideas (but not *set in your ways*). You look back and see some things you've learned. You benefit from the ideas of friends along the way, even when you disagree with them.

Several decades ago, my best friend got me started thinking about energy use and how the prices of things don't always give us the best signals about how and what to buy.

The year was 1970. I had torn out the interior and chimney — my little farmhouse was ready for some heavy-duty remodeling. Electric heat was the only way to go, I thought. The fixtures were inexpensive; I could install them myself, and electricity was about a cent and a half per kilowatt hour. Almost too cheap to meter. I said, "It's the only way to go. Just look at the price!"

My friend Maurice suggested that there was something screwy in the market if I could get my simplest energy needs — space heat — met most cheaply with electricity, the most refined energy source there is. He described the tortuous route which my electric logs would be taking, from the uranium, coal or oil that would be broken down to make steam, to the turbine-driven generators that made the electricity to be sent a hundred miles or so by wire, only to be turned back to heat in my living room.

Maurice was right. Plain old rocking-chair heat is one of the lowest grades of energy needs around. It's a waste product when we run an engine, type on a computer or read by a light. So, why did the market price tell me to burn electricity, not wood, in my humble hearth? The answers were, and still are, a bit complicated, but Maurice claimed that our political rules were upsetting some deeper financial and conservation (ecological) principles. First, some of my electric house-heat would come from the Big Rock Nuclear Plant in Charlevoix, Michigan. To keep the nuke rays away from my cozy rocking chair, the government spent millions on atomic research and development, on protecting the industry with free insurance against liability and with a no-problem waste storage scheme for the next 5,000 years, or whatever it was. That's the nuclear part. The oil part involves a similar story. Oil was too cheap to conserve, because we were not wise enough to begin oil conservation in the 1930s, when we started the absolutely critical and

wonderful program, supported by our federal taxes, of soil and water conservation. We also promoted cheap oil- and coal-based electricity by giving federal money to private and public power companies. This wasn't all bad, but it helped to confuse the market prices and fooled me as I sat, electrified, in my cozy rocking chair.

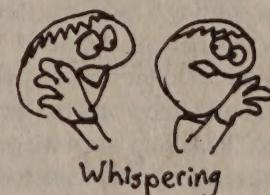
Maurice came to my new house and rocked with me in my electric comfort. He understood that I needed lots of low-cost heat to keep my fingers warm as I balanced my checkbook and prepared for the 6:00 a.m. trek through January snows to the dairy barn. But my savings from the unrealistically low price of electricity were rather short-lived. Now, that house has a chimney and burns wood for low-cost, renewable heat. And I have decided that our economy and environment are best served, not by the lowest possible prices, but by competitive prices that reflect all the direct costs of production, conservation and resource protection involved.

We should think hard about real prices when we go to vote, too. The ten cents per gallon per year fuel tax increase (up to 50 cents) advocated by Ross Perot is an extremely good example of what we really should be doing. It's hard to cheer about, but other countries have found that it is a good investment, and it would make our economy stronger in the long run.

And, consider our state ballot proposals. I'm strongly considering voting *yes* on Proposition #3. Number three, the regulations on packaging, would start us on a serious commitment to reducing the mountains of throw-away materials that cost us money while they waste our resources. Under the proposed regulations, we would have a more earth- and resource-friendly field in which all commerce would operate. Businesses and packagers would win market share, not by wasting more virgin materials than their competitors, but by more creative use of good materials.

Maurice started my education about the tricks that prices can play on us. I now see that, in a democracy, markets are made and can be controlled by the political will of the citizenry; people and resources do not exist for the markets.

— Wayne Burkhart





## THE STARLING: BAD BIRD OR INNOCENT SCAPEGOAT?

We live in the deep, dark woods, and we never see any starlings around home. We don't see crocodiles, sandhill cranes or fruit bats, either, and we don't see race riots, ethnic cleansings or radioactive waste. The views from here, good and bad, are limited, so we try to get out once in a while to see what else there is.

Recently, we made it as far as Albany. We saw a tidal river, a woodchuck and an inconsiderate driver. We saw very tall buildings, a train and thousands of little black birds on some high voltage wires, like beads spaced on a necklace.

"Look at all those birds! What are they?" from the back seat.

I was driving, dealing with unfamiliar input from left and right. I didn't know what kind of birds they were; they might not even have been all the same kind of bird, for all I knew. Lots of birds flock up like this, for one reason or another, most often headed for a communal roosting place after a day of foraging. I decided on the short answer, almost unheard of from Mom the Nature Bug, but I was tired out from the tidal river discussion and starting on a sore throat.

"Starlings."

"What's a starling? Why are there so many of them? Do they live here all the time? Why don't we have them at home? Do they eat seeds?"

I told them all I knew and finished off with my usual promise to "look it up when we get home." One of the main things I always learn when I'm out with the kids is how unaware I am of how little I know. This is

humbling, of course, but the rewards come when I get home and manage to remember to look it up.

I had a feeling that my books would reveal the starling to be an unloved creature. This turned out to be the case. One essay begins unabashedly, "The starling is undoubtedly one of the least loved birds in North America..." (Donald Stokes, 1979), and even Edward Howe Forbush, usually on such an even keel, wrote of the starling's song, that it is harsh, "not like our native birds," (1927).

What has the starling done to make the nature writers mad? I think I know what its crimes are. First, as Forbush has said, it is not a native. This is very bad. And to make matters much worse, it is a highly successful species. There are, I have just learned, 200 million starlings here in North America.

According to my sources, starlings arrived in Central Park, New York, on March 16, 1890. They were released there by an agent of the American Acclimatization Society, an organization dedicated to, among other things (one hopes), the "establishing in the United States every species of bird mentioned in the works of William Shakespeare."

Can this be true? Could such a society truly exist? It is too wonderful, if you ask me, but I have seen it in print in an otherwise sober volume, quite respectable. It says the first attempts at starling introduction, from England and Europe, were not successful. Then, sixty birds were released in Central Park, and they did well. Sixty years later, they had made it to the west coast, and now there are hundreds of millions of them.

You might wonder if this in itself is a bad thing. I guess the answer has to be, "yes, it is." Huge numbers of anything are probably bad for something else, especially living things which compete for food and shelter. Starlings are cavity dwellers, which means they build their nests in old woodpecker holes and bird houses. If there were only a few starlings around, we would be frantically researching the perfect dimensions for their needs, building starling houses, trying to get them to nest near us and make us think of Shakespeare. But since there are millions of them, we figure they are driving away the woodpeckers, bluebirds, martins and other less aggressive tree-hole nesters. We side with the underdog (or bird), we want species diversity, and we want natives.

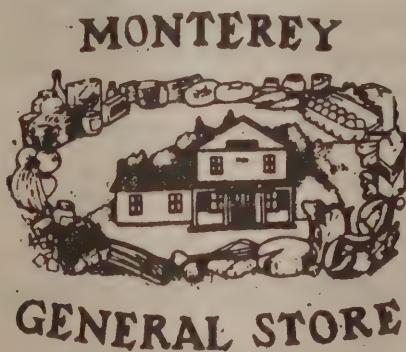
In 1927, starlings had only made it as far west as Illinois, but Forbush saw what was coming. "The question often is asked: 'If the starling becomes unduly numerous in this country, what can be done to eliminate it?' The answer is, 'nothing.' The starling is a strong,

resolute, cautious and sagacious bird. The bird is here to stay. We must make the best of it."

Here's what we can do. We can learn about starlings. They eat all sorts of insects and fruits and seeds. They love to walk around on short grass, and they have unusual bill muscles which are used for prying apart thick sods: stick the bill in closed, then use those muscles to *open* the mandibles, loosing up the vegetation. They fumigate their nests with fresh applications of green, leafy matter which gives off chemical protection from parasites and pathogens. Starlings imitate more than thirty different birds in composing their varied songs, and the Romans taught them to mimic human speech. They squeak and squawk, whisper and whistle. They make 260 visits a day to the nest to feed insects to their babies, and sometimes, one female will lay her eggs in the nest of another.

I doubt that anyone knowing these things could still feel grumpy about starlings. There are far worse things.

— Bonner J. McAllester



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## NOVEMBER MEADOW MORNING: GOULD FARM AND THE RIVER

Lion teeth leaves stand  
Plastic-thick with cold,  
Industrial sage green

Between my melting footprints.  
23 sheep with crocheted  
Frost-rimmed ears

Chomp  
Chomp  
Chomp

Chomp determinedly,  
Watch dispassionately  
My

Drywell heart  
Cradle stones  
And empty paint cans.

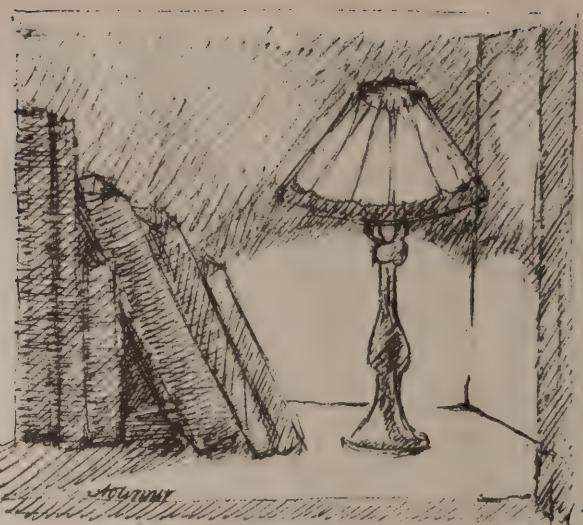
Life moves on without  
The three Mouseketeers,  
The Fey Mutineers;

Life, compelling, speechless, strong.  
Calls without language:  
Come to the river.

One rock, black  
In the Konkapot current,  
Stands over swellwater rapids.

River broken on its back  
Reweaves peace downstream  
After the bend in the water.

— MaryKate Jordan



## A WHISPER OF WINTER

The giddy leaves, so bonny and multi-hued  
Twirled and whirled, hilariously rude.  
They skittered and bopped in the crisp cool air  
And flicked and fluttered like a tam of mohair.  
They came in all colors, every shape and size  
With no choreographer to supervise.  
The woods exuded a golden glow.  
The road was covered with a sprinkling of snow.  
Along its shoulders was a border of birch  
And the air was invaded by the bells of a church.  
No longer was it a windy, ruddy fall day.  
Silently decorous winter was on its way.

— Nancy Adams

## OCTOBER 2 part round

Slowly ①

The palette is changing each

fire and frost, red gold st

②

OCTOBER 20, 1992

There is, first, the oldest. Stepping across the wall,  
he stands,  
or she, surveying the open space,  
unhidden,  
Not at all fearful, attentive, hardly concerned with  
the small  
green apples, ready on the ground.  
All dark eyes. Following him, but not daring the  
emergence, the next  
in line, slowly forward, at the  
edge of openness, half hidden, the  
head less high  
above the line of backbone, his or her elegant legs  
covered by the  
brush. Next the youngest, not  
following its siblings  
but preceding half-daringly the mother who then, a  
stately presence,  
slips into view. Slowly, the lady and her brood move  
on. The oldest  
has stepped back into the forest. Standing a  
moment, large white ears  
erect, he disappears,  
or she, following the others.

— Stefan Brecht

In a howling rainstorm at the edge of the  
continent,  
the Rev. Jesse Jackson huddled under a tent.  
This is a season of pain  
A hint of envy  
Tones of amazement and terror  
Staggering brutality.  
A disagreeable verdict, reeling from a right-wing  
attack.

Treasures forgotten in drawers  
The disinterested and profane world  
is usually like that.  
There's not a word that leaps to mind;  
A natural and positive condition  
Will have to wait for another time.

— D.R. Strange



words & music © Joe Baker 1992

Music notation consisting of a treble clef, a common time signature, and a series of eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

rearranging the greens to colors of

Music notation consisting of a treble clef, a common time signature, and a series of eighth and sixteenth note patterns.

upper, the fleeting fabric of autumn (the)

## NUBBIN

Nubbin, Nubbin,  
Pony Nubbin  
Galloping along the grass;  
Feeling like bucking,  
Thinking of running away.  
But no, no, no, Nubbin!

— Sudi Baker

FALLING 3 part round

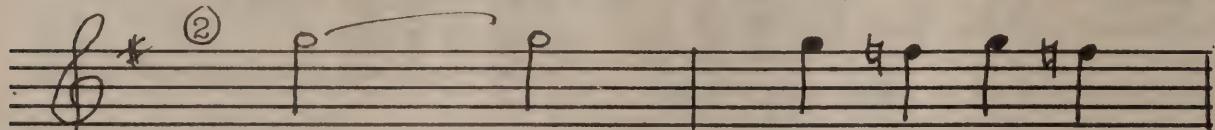
words & music © Joe Baker 1990

Leisurely ①



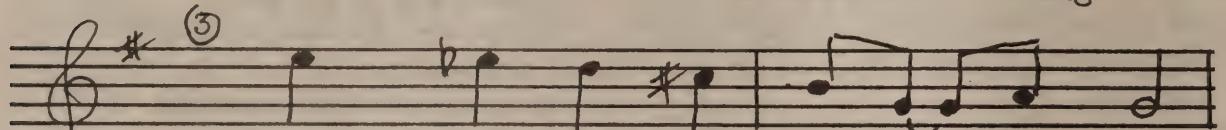
Pick out the pumpkin get my old wool hat it's

②



fall - - - - - leaves are turning

③



fall - - ing fall - ing down to the ground.



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## WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Lisa Simpson and Gary Eveland

Since last May, Lisa Simpson and Gary Eveland have been at The Bidwell House, where Lisa is the new resident director. They moved to Monterey in response to a long-held wish to live in New England and an ad they saw in a museum journal.

Lisa was born in Illinois, after which, "my family history has been one of many moves." Her father's business took him to many locations, from the west coast to Connecticut and places in between. Lisa went to college at the University of Tennessee, and in 1984, she took her M.A. in museum studies at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. By then, her specialty was art history, and for her first job, she spent four years at a small, private art museum in Memphis, where she was curator of a collection of 19th century French paintings.

Gary comes from Hornell, New York, and he has studied art history at the University of Tennessee and Memphis State University. His specialties are photography and the installation of exhibits. It was in the latter capacity that he met Lisa, In Memphis. They also both worked briefly at the Knoxville Museum of Art and then moved to Princeton, New Jersey, where Gary worked at the Princeton Art Museum, doing installations, lighting and conservancy.

Lisa and Gary were married a year and a half ago, and lived in Plainsboro, near Princeton. Lisa worked at the School of Architecture at Princeton and became the volunteer president of the Plainsboro Historical Society. During this time, she developed her interest in historical research.

The job at The Bidwell House seemed like the right opportunity for Lisa to combine her organizational, historical and curatorial talents, and Gary soon found an opening for his expertise, helping with the move of the Norman Rockwell Museum to its new quarters.

Both Gary and Lisa are finding the intellectual stimulation of the South Berkshires as satisfying as the beauty of the countryside. Lisa has begun a series of projects that will combine the rich historical possibilities of Western Massachusetts with the input from the unusual contemporary human resources here. "Even Monterey, itself, has an extraordinary complement of artists, musicians, writers, designers, craftspeople. . .the list goes on and on!"

A land management plan for the Bidwell property has been in the making for some years. Now, with the help of Peter Jensen of Great Barrington, the local Director of Open Space Management, Lisa has obtained a grant for the coming year to initiate a long-term project to make optimum use of the nearly 200 acres of the original Bidwell farm. It is very rare for a historic house to have its land base still intact. The development of several kinds of gardens and perhaps an orchard

would complement the house. The mapping and archeological study of outbuildings is another project where environmental and historical interests overlap. There are at least two maple sugaring sites on the property. So are the foundations of Monterey's original church.

Another consideration is the present-day use of the property by Montereyans and other visitors. It is a natural preservation area for wildlife of all kinds. So far, Monterey has never had an educational set of walks with informative trail guides. Such a facility would benefit school children and nature lovers of all ages.

One of the mysteries at The Bidwell House is Reverend Bidwell's coded notebook of sermons. Lisa has obtained funds for a resident scholar, who might penetrate the cryptic notations. With the help of studies of the style of 18th century sermons, there might be a chance to reconstruct some that were delivered in our own first church more than 200 years ago. Bidwell knew his contemporary, the famed Stockbridge theologian, Jonathan Edwards. Their intellectual and personal relationships still await study.

Lisa has a plan for a "hands-on" set of history workshops that will involve six local Girl Scout troops from Great Barrington, Otis and Monterey. The idea is to learn by participating in storytelling, gardening, pottery making, music and dance, folk art portraiture and other aspects of local life in the 19th century. Another venture will be to bring together the musicians and the music for an early American folk concert.

Jack Hargis and David Brush dreamed that their sensitive restoration of the Bidwell house would continue under the care of a non-profit organization. Long strides have been made to realize this dream, and The Bidwell House has already received national recognition. As Monterey rejoices in this distinction and helps further the project, we can be glad that our good luck and the many-faceted lure of New England brought Lisa and Gary to town.

— David P. McAllester



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## ON THE ROAD AGAIN Through Canada

Edith picked me up at the airport in Buffalo. On our way to Erie, Pennsylvania, I told her all about my two weeks in Montana. We went right home to see my six dogs and two cats. The three puppies were twice the size they were when I left them. Their eyes were open, and they growled! "Edith, you have done well in your dog and cat sitting!"

Two days later, we all (animals and I) set forth in my camper. It was kind of hard, after being wined and dined in houses and restaurants all over Montana, to buy food, cook it on my little stove and wash the dishes.

We crossed the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, and into Canada. The official said, "Why are you coming to Canada? Where are you going? How long? Are you American? Where do you live in the U.S.? Have you anything to sell?" I felt like a criminal just crossing the border!

Right away, you know you are in a different land. The haystacks are cone-shaped. The houses are different. So are the trees. We took the Queen Elizabeth Way, where the speed limit is 100 (kilometers per hour). We circled the giant, sprawling city of Toronto, bowed down with smog, took Route 10 north two hours to the little farming town of Markdale. We spent the night with old friends, Greg and Gisele. They have a dog and a cat, so my family and I were comfortable there.

Back south to Highway 401, which is the biggest highway I have ever seen. It goes from Toronto to Montreal, eight lanes in each direction. Cars and trucks passed me going over 80 mph! I could always take hairy highways, but this. . . . If you broke down in the sixth or seventh lane, you just couldn't get off! Never again!

Twelve hours to Montreal. In Ontario, the signs are in both English and French. Once you cross into Quebec, it's all French. I tried to revive my seven years of French study. When I couldn't take it any more, I drove into a rest area. I parked between two big trucks, hoping the authorities wouldn't see me. I slept the night.

Montreal is big, a charming French city. I had directions to follow: *Cross the bridge*. I forgot that *pont* was *bridge*. Two hours later, I was still going round and round. Numerous calls to my hostess, stopping every thirty minutes to get new directions.

I finally arrived at the apartment house. I took all

six dogs and their equipment inside, leaving the two cats in the camper, which I parked in a public lot. Tara, Greg's daughter, has helped me with the dogs for ten years, since she was a little girl. She gathered up the tiny puppies and took them to her room. We had a good visit.

The next day, I went out for *petit dejeuner* and stupidly ordered pancakes. They were flour and milk, almost liquid. We shopped around. I felt like I was back in Paris! Following a truck driver's directions, I headed for the States.

I passed houses and churches, so French in character. I noticed that many cars had their lights on, in bright sunlight. A man explained that in new cars, the lights go on when the motor starts and don't go off until the motor is turned off. How about that!

I went down Route 15 to the border station going into Vermont. I changed my Canadian money back to American in a bank. Prices in Canada, for gas, food, everything, are so high! Our dollar buys \$1.15 there. The U.S. official at the border talked to the dogs, asked for their papers, didn't look at them, asked me a few questions, and we were home!

Back in the *Etats Unis*, I wandered across (Route 60) Vermont, New Hampshire and into Maine. Winding, but good. My first time up there. It's lovely: little villages, farms, pastures and forests. I arrived at my SKP rally in Brewer, where I met old friends I hadn't seen since California, Mexico and Texas. Big lobster lunch the next day. Good talk: See you in Alabama in October, See you in Florida in December, and so down south.

Parked my camper right on the ocean in Boothbay, Maine. Lobster again, outside the camper with my nephew, Strohn and his son, Colin. Colin was on holiday from his job as a newswriter in Budapest.

On to Hanover, New Hampshire, to visit my other nephew, Mike. I took his little girl and boy home to Monterey with me. Good to be home after five weeks away.

— Joan Woodard Reed



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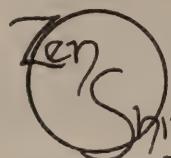
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John Florez

## BERNARD KLEBAN

Bernard Kleban, 77, of Beartown Mountain Road and New York City, died October 6 while visiting friends in Cambridge.

He was born in New York City on July 1, 1915, son of Herman and Ada Gittelson Kleban. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering at Cooper Union College in New York City and later worked in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Mr. Kleban was formerly employed by New Departure Ball Bearing Company in Connecticut. He also was an engineer for a filtration company in Boston, a safety engineer for American Mutual Insurance Company in Brookline, and taught high school courses for a few years in Pittsfield.

He was a former regional co-ordinator for the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health.

He leaves his former wife, Sylvia Rod Kleban, whom he married in January, 1940; a son, Peter Kleban of Orono, Maine; two daughters, Miss Nancy Kleban of Maui, Hawaii, and Mrs. Joan Kleban of Eugene, Oregon; three grandchildren, and his longtime companion, Mrs. Helen Sheingold of New York City.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Recently, in the Lake Garfield Association section of your paper, there was printed an article under the byline of David P. McAllester, a portion of which is quoted in my recent correspondence of September 18, 1992 to Attorney Joel Greenberg. Enclosed is a copy of Mr. Greenberg's response to my letter of September 18, which I think is self explanatory. It is clear that I made no offer on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Simon to the Anhalts or their counsel, and I very much would like you to print a correction of the recent news story, which is inaccurate and gives a most unfortunate impression of me and my clients.

— F. Sydney Smithers

(*Mr. Smithers enclosed copies of the correspondence he exchanged with Mr. Greenberg, portions of which follow.*)

Dear Joel:

Enclosed is a . . . copy of a portion of a local newsletter published in Monterey. . . . I will quote the pertinent portions for you: "Mrs. Anhalt, an abutting neighbor [of Burt and Joan Simon] informed the Association that the Simons' attorney had offered her money not to pursue a personal lawsuit against them. She did not accept, and urged everyone concerned about the situation to write to the Selectmen."

During the brief period of time that you represented Mrs. Anhalt you and I had several telephone conversations and exchanged correspondence. During one of those conversations there was a brief discussion about settlement and what it would entail, if, indeed, it was at all possible. In that discussion, in response to a query from you I did say I would take up with my client the possibility of some kind of financial settlement if that would settle the matter and if you had the authority to settle on that basis. Neither you nor I had to that point, discussed that possibility with our clients and thereafter there was no further discussion because you were discharged by the Anhalts.

There was no "offer" of money and while I don't know what you told your client, I do know what you and I discussed. As I have never met or spoken with the Anhalts any misapprehensions she may have about money surely came from you.

— F. Sydney Smithers

Dear Syd:

I received your letter of September 18, 1992. As I told you on the telephone, you are correct in that no offer was ever made nor was any implication that you had any authority to make any offer. Our discussion involved, to the best of my recollection, various ways that my clients' complaints and your clients' problems could be resolved. In discussing the matter with my clients and then following up with a letter, it was clearly stated that this was a discussion between lawyers, and that in the event some resolution could be arrived at, including damages, that you would recommend to your clients to try to resolve the matter by payment of some damages. Clearly no amount was ever discussed nor was it even understood that there was any commitment.

I spoke to Mrs. Anhalt about the matter and obviously she could not easily differentiate between you and your clients and the matter of negotiations between the parties.

— Joel S. Greenberg

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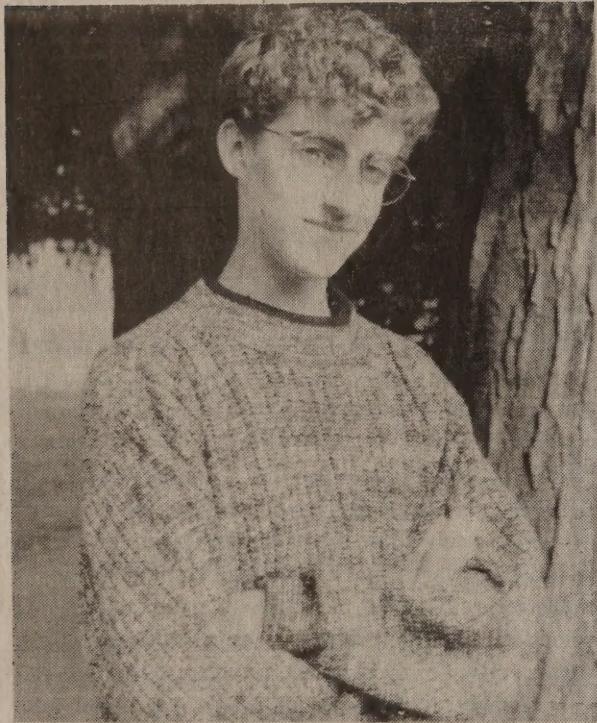
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## PERSONAL NOTES



Congratulations to **Jonas Klein**, a senior at Northfield Mount Hermon School, who has been named a semifinalist in the 1993 National Merit Scholarship program. National Merit Scholarship semifinalists represent about half of one percent of each state's graduating class. Jonas is the son of **Vicki Reed** of Main Road.

Welcome to some new babies this month. **Matthew Nelson Meier** was born to Bill and Maureen Meier on September 18 at Fairview Hospital. And **Gige O'Connell** has a new granddaughter, **Margarete Julia Foster**, born to Joanne O'Connell-Foster and Christopher Foster on October 6 in Providence, Rhode Island. Gige made it to Providence the day the baby was born and spent the week.

A standing ovation for **Nancy Kalodner** of Benchmark Real Estate, who was named the 1992 Massachusetts Realtor of the Year at the 68th annual convention of the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, held in September in Newport, Rhode Island.

Congratulations to all our Monterey friends who participated in the Walk for the Homeless on October 4. Special kudos for **Eleanor Kimberley**, at 82 years young, the oldest to complete the 10K walk from Construct, Inc. in Great Barrington to the Old Parish

Church in Sheffield. We hear that **Nancy Rowley**, **Oren Rosenthal** and several Gould Farm residents also made the trek. The successful event drew approximately 200 walkers and raised about \$10,000.

We notice lots of activity at our Monterey kindergarten again! Seven young Montereyans join teacher **Susan Andersen** and aide **Linda Thorpe** as the school year begins. We wish **Craig Bourque**, **Penny Duryea**, **Richard Hagadone**, **Colm Higgins**, **Johnathan Sawers**, **Christopher Tryon** and **Mario Westenborg** many happy and exciting days as they begin their academic careers in our little school.

Hats off to **Nadine Hastedt**, who has been re-elected president of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Berkshire County. A residential mortgage officer at Canaan National Bank in Canaan, Connecticut, Nadine also served on the allocations committee of Berkshire United Way from 1987-1989.

Welcome back to **Edith Wilson** of New Marlboro Road, who recently enjoyed an Amtrak adventure, traveling to Chicago, her old stomping ground, and Indianapolis. Edith had a wonderful time visiting old and dear friend she hadn't seen in eleven years.

Very Happy Birthday wishes to **Patrick McBride** on November 1, to **Jacob Markwood** on November 4, to **Edith Wilson** on November 10, to **Andi Dunlop** on November 11, to **Mariah Rutherford-Olds** on November 12, to **Mary Kay Robertson** on November 14, to **Brittany Piretti** on November 15, and to **Jenny Brown**, **Florence Brown**, **Gale Forbes** and **Kirsten Quisenberry**, all on November 25.

Please continue to share your news items, birthdays, etc. Your contributions are most appreciated! Just call me at 528-4519, or jot down your items and drop them in the mail to me, just Route 23. Thanks in advance!

—Stephanie Grotz



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## CALENDAR

*Sunday, November 1* — Behind-the-scenes tour of The Bidwell House's collection of quilts and linsey-woolsies. 1:30 p.m. Admission charge. For information and reservations, call 528-6888.

*Tuesday, November 3* — Election Day. Polls at the firehouse open 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

*Saturday, November 7* — Home Composting Workshop at Gould Farm, given by the Center for Ecological Technology. 1:30-3:30 p.m. For more information, see *Home Composting Workshop*, elsewhere in this issue.

*Sunday, November 8* — Installation of hockey rink. 9:00 a.m. For more information, see *Park Commission News*, elsewhere in this issue.

*Wednesday, November 11* — Community Dinner. 6:30 p.m. in the church social room (basement).

*Saturday, November 14* — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults \$4, children \$1 to dance until intermission. Information: 528-9385.

*Tuesday, November 17* — Free blood pressure clinic. 9:00-10:30 a.m., downstairs at the town hall.

*Friday, November 27* — SELFHELP International Craft Sale, in the church social room. Continues through the weekend. For more information, see *Church News*, elsewhere in this issue.

*Saturday, November 28* — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have some square or contra dance experience. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission \$4. Information: 528-9385.



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We invite your submissions of news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings and photographs. All editorial material should reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. For questions about editorial material, call the editor at 528-3128.

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*Drawings in this issue by Ben Laux, Lincoln Lipsky, Bonner McAllester and Anne O'Connor.*

## MONTEREY NEWS

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